

like it is water. The fact is that this President is now in the middle of a Presidential election. He is campaigning on the theme that he is a moderate. In fact, I heard AL GORE in New Hampshire call himself of a "fiscal conservative"—the Vice President of the United States. Well, this is not fiscal conservatism, spending this type of money. Spending \$220 million more on the United Nations so they can hire patronage is not fiscal conservatism. Picking winners and losers in the marketplace and having the winners be Fortune 500 companies, who can take care of themselves when it comes to R&D, is not fiscal conservatism. Spending \$6.5 billion more of the American taxpayers dollars and putting it, for all intents and purposes, on the deficit is not fiscal conservatism. It is liberalism. It is the classic situation where you buy votes with tax dollars and you spend money without regard to where it is going or how it is being accounted for, but only with regard to what the political pluses are from it. It comes back to roost—not to us, maybe, in our generation immediately, but certainly to our children, as they have to pay the bills.

It is a mistake. I felt it should be on the record from somebody, because nobody seems to want to talk about it around here. So I am taking these few minutes to make these points.

I yield back my time.

Mr. THOMAS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. THOMAS. I ask unanimous consent to speak for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

POLITICAL GAMES

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I want to tell you that I appreciate the comments of the Senator from New Hampshire. Certainly, this needs to be talked about. I have never seen anything quite like what is happening to us here at the end of this session. The idea that those on the other side of the aisle, the administration and the Democrats, would hold up progress over the last 3 weeks, as they have, by having 100 amendments to every appropriations bill, most of them not at all attached to the subject, simply to hold it up to bring us up to the edge of this business of shutting down Government, which they found to be a great political advantage last year, is absurd.

I have never seen anything like this in my life. The Senator from New Hampshire is exactly right. They have extracted \$6.5 billion in additional spending simply by threatening—not on the merits of the spending—to close down the Government and blame the Republicans. I have never seen anything quite like that kind of deception—the idea that, for instance, talking about reducing the deficit and at the same time increasing deficit spending by \$5.5 billion, reduce the deficit

only by raising taxes—the largest tax increase we have ever had—and talk about reducing the numbers of employment when, in fact, almost all of it was as a result of base closures and civilian employees of DOD, and the end of the Resolution Trust Corporation, which had nothing to do with this President.

So that is where we are. I am just delighted that the Senator from New Hampshire, who has hands-on experience with this expenditure, as chairman of the subcommittee, has talked about where we are and where we need to go.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR ALAN SIMPSON

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I want to talk about a friend who will be leaving the Senate, a man whom I respect greatly, a man who—to quote a phrase he uses—is "a friend of his friends," and that is Senator Alan SIMPSON, from Wyoming, who will be retiring from the Senate at the end of this session.

AL SIMPSON is particularly close to me. He is from Cody, WY, a town of 10,000 or 12,000. Cody is also the same town I am from. We were both there last weekend at the Buffalo Bill Museum event.

AL is a lifelong friend, a good and gracious man. He comes from a family of good and gracious leadership. The first person that I remember as a kid, who was an outstanding citizen, one of those kinds that you remember, was Milward Simpson, AL's dad. Interestingly enough, the thing I remember the most was that he is the first guy I ever saw who could simply stand up and talk without being prepared, or without needing notes, and do it so eloquently. I guess that is where AL SIMPSON acquires his ability to do the same thing.

So many here in the Senate have known AL SIMPSON for a very long time, too, and are his friends. AL has been here for 18 years representing our State, battling for our State, battling for this country, and all of us feel so fortunate to have had him here. Some have mixed feelings about him leaving. On the one hand, all of us are happy that he and Ann will have an opportunity to do some other things. They have great interests, whether it be in museums, whether it be in health care, whether it be in the other historic things they have been interested in. But they have great grace and style in their personal relationships, and they will all be missed.

I have had the privilege of serving on the team from Wyoming with AL SIMPSON for the 5 years I was in the House, and these special 2 years, the last 2 years, I have been in the Senate. I suppose we have a unique closeness in our delegation from Wyoming. As everyone else does, we have two Members in the Senate, but we have just one in the House. There are just three of us. The people in Wyoming find it fairly easy to contact the delegation when they come, since there are just three of us.

We were talking yesterday about the population of Wyoming when I was presiding. There are about 470,000 people, and about 100,000 square miles for them to live. But in a State like that we become pretty personal in politics. We have an opportunity to talk. We have an opportunity to express the prejudices that each of us have, and ideas. It is truly unique. We have unique relationships. We have all been Republicans since I have been here. We have all been friends.

I have known ALAN virtually all my life. We lived basically up the street across the alley from the Simpson's in the wintertime. I knew him when he weighed 260 pounds, and had hair, and, as he says, thought beer was food. But fortunately Ann came along, and dressed him up. And he has been an outstanding representative of Wyoming since; frankly, not just of Wyoming. AL SIMPSON represents some of the best of this country; represents the kind of person who looks at an issue and takes the position that he believes is correct.

Clearly in this business there is a tendency to take the position that seems to be most popular. There is nothing unusual about that.

But AL SIMPSON has throughout his service here and in the Wyoming legislature been willing to take those positions that are not the most popular; that are not the easiest; that are not the road most traveled. And he has felt comfortable taking them.

I, particularly, will miss AL SIMPSON. We came from the same town, and the same university, since we only have one in Wyoming. We lived in the same athletic dorm, and now served in the same Senate.

So I have been around this guy a lot, and others will miss him too. He is a national figure.

He tells the story about a hotel in Cody where a lot of strangers come through, and someone coming up to him and saying—someone he did not know—"Did anyone ever tell you that you look like AL SIMPSON?" He said, "Yes. Sometimes." The man said, "It makes you mad, doesn't it?"

He is well known—well known because of his humor; the great skill and gift of humor that he has to make things seem a little lighter than they are. He says continuously and so properly, "You know, I take the issues seriously but I don't take myself seriously." We need more of that. We need more of that.

He is my political mentor and our senior Senator. I can tell you that Milward and Lorna, his parents, would be so proud. His father was a U.S. Senator as well as the Governor of our State, and president of the university and served on the board of trustees. AL and his brother have followed him in that great tradition of courage and class.

Let me just close by saying not only does he have great humor, great grace, and a great partner in Ann, but he is an extraordinary legislator. You can see

him working today on the illegal immigration bill, a tough issue; and, quite frankly, one that is not as important in Wyoming as it is in other places. But that does not matter. AL said this is an important issue to our country, as he has undertaken to deal with Social Security in ways to honestly change it, and has had some controversy with groups that want the status quo. He has been willing to undertake the difficult question of entitlements that, obviously, have to be dealt with but are political dynamite—the old third rail of politics that no one is willing to touch. AL SIMPSON has done that, and will continue to.

One of his first activities following his departure here—I thought about saying “departed friend.” That is not right. He has his whole life before him. He is not departing. He is simply moving on to Harvard to teach at the Kennedy School of Government. It will be interesting to see the impact he will have at Harvard. I think it will be wonderful.

He has taken on the media on entitlements. He has done all of those things that are not easy to do. He stands for the things that are good about this system.

So I will miss our good friend and mentor—lifelong friend—who has the wisdom and willingness to take on the tough problems. Besides, I will not have anyone to join with me in the recitations of the “Cremation of Sam McGee” which we enjoy doing from time to time.

So I want to say, “Hats off” to AL SIMPSON, and we wish him the very, very best. I know he and Ann will have a wonderful, continuous time.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. BYRD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from West Virginia.

RETIREMENT OF SENATOR ALAN SIMPSON

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, in a matter of days, or even hours, one of the finest individuals it has been my privilege to know will bring to a close another chapter in what has been, by any measure, an extraordinary legislative career.

Of course, no one should be surprised by the fact that our friend from Wyoming, who has served in the Senate for nearly 18 years, is one of the most accomplished legislative craftsmen to ever grace these hallowed halls. In fact, one could say that ALAN SIMPSON was born to a life in politics, that he really did not have a choice in the matter. One might say that. After all, when one's family has practiced law for the past 100 years, and when one's father has served the beloved State of Wyoming as both a Governor and as a U.S. Senator, it is hard to argue that one's fate was not predetermined.

Although actually born in Denver, CO, Senator SIMPSON is a lifelong native of Cody, WY, which, as he would be

quick to remind us, is the home of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center. Following graduation from the University of Wyoming with a bachelor of science degree in law, the young Senator-to-be began his life of public service as a 2d Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, serving in the 5th Infantry Division in Germany.

After leaving the Army, ALAN SIMPSON returned to the University of Wyoming to obtain his juris doctor, and then commenced a law practice with his father in their hometown firm of Simpson, Kepler and Simpson. His love of the law is evident in the fact that ALAN remained with the firm for the next 18 years, during which time he served as the State's assistant attorney general, and the Cody city attorney.

Responding to the call of greater professional challenge, and carrying on in the family tradition, Senator SIMPSON entered the political arena when he won election to the Wyoming House of Representatives in 1964, a position he would occupy for the next 14 years. His love for the art and the process of legislating further propelled ALAN to seek and win a seat in this great legislative body.

Mr. President, having been elected to three terms here in the Senate, it is obvious that his Wyoming constituents understand and appreciate the degree of skill, dedication, and integrity that ALAN SIMPSON has brought to his work. And, as a former assistant majority leader, and a former assistant Republican leader, it is obvious that his Republican colleagues have understood and valued those qualities in Senator SIMPSON as well.

But despite his steady climb up the leadership ladder, no one should make the mistake of assuming that the senior Senator from Wyoming has shied away from controversy.

To the contrary, it is doubtful that there is any other Member of this body who is more willing to enter into the fray, who is more willing to take on the special interest groups, or who is more willing to apply his quick and often devastating verbal wit to any and all situations, including turning that laser-sharp humor on himself.

One need look no further than the difficult and contentious issue of immigration to see that ALAN SIMPSON is not content to simply sit by and watch others take the lead and take the heat. For more than 15 years, dating back to when he first became chairman of the Judiciary Committee's Immigration Subcommittee, ALAN has undertaken the arduous and generally thankless task of crafting bills that would discourage illegal immigration and bring much-needed common sense to our national policies with respect to legal immigration. He has led the way in calling for tough sanctions on those employers who hire illegal immigrants, by articulating the need to establish a strong and workable employment verification system and by speaking out

on the necessity of lowering the total number of legal immigrants this Nation annually absorbs.

I have been fully supportive of ALAN SIMPSON in these endeavors.

I know I speak for many of my colleagues when I say that with respect to immigration, I will certainly miss the advice and counsel of my good friend from Wyoming, ALAN SIMPSON. All of us, on both sides of the aisle, will lament the loss of his informed and courageous leadership in this legislative area.

His work on immigration, though, was not the only complex and troubling issue that ALAN SIMPSON has been willing to tackle. After gaining a seat on the Finance Committee, Senator SIMPSON was resolute in his desire to stem the growth of entitlement spending. That conviction, of course, put him on track to collide with some of the most powerful and entrenched special interests Washington has ever known, but he did not waver. He did not tremble. He did not trim his sails. He did not run from the issue. He did not retreat from the battlefield. Instead, in his usual forthright and relentless manner, Senator SIMPSON, Senator ALAN SIMPSON—I say ALAN. I served with his father in this body—Senator ALAN SIMPSON coauthored a bipartisan proposal to make long-term cuts in Social Security spending including an eventual increase in the retirement age to 70.

Mr. President, ALAN's commitment to absolute honesty in addressing the many profound and troubling problems that face this Nation is emblematic of the devoted public servant that ALAN SIMPSON has shown himself to be over these past 18 years. There will be few, if any, who will match the accomplishments of our friend from the West, few who will bring to this body a deeper passion, and few who will legislate with greater skill.

And so, Mr. President, as he prepares to leave the Senate, not for a well-deserved retirement but for new challenges, this time in academia, I offer my sincere gratitude to Senator ALAN K. SIMPSON for his professionalism, for his friendship, for his leadership, for his wit, for his candor, and for his many years of dedicated service to our Nation.

As Thomas Paine once wrote:

I love the man that can smile in trouble, that can gather strength from distress, and grow brave by reflection. 'Tis the business of little minds to shrink; but he whose heart is firm, and whose conscience approves his conduct, will pursue his principle unto death.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. BREAUX addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, I was very privileged to be in the Chamber as the senior Senator from West Virginia was making his remarks. I commend him for acknowledging one of our friends and leaders of the Senate who is